

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A storage system comprising:

a storage device for storing data files to be accessed by one or more users; and

a storage management system for managing a data file in the storage device to be accessed by a user, the storage management system comprising:

a management object for controlling management access in response to a request from a manager connected to the storage management system through a network, said management object authenticating a second manager ID and a second password received through the network from the manager, in accordance with a first ID and a first password stored beforehand to authenticate the manager;

a storage configuration information file containing settings of the storage management system with respect to operation of the storage device; and

a temporary software interface object for accessing the settings in the storage configuration information file through the network, said temporary software interface object to be created by said management object when both authentication of the second manager ID and authentication of the second password by said management object succeed, and to be expired after a predetermined permission time, wherein:

the authenticated manager's access to the settings contained in the storage configuration information file is permitted only while the temporary software interface object exists,

said management object transmits a key, needed for communication through the network with the temporary software interface object, to the authenticated manager to enable management access to the storage configuration information file, and

said temporary software interface object permitting an access to the settings in the storage configuration information file is erased after lapse of said predetermined permission time so as to expire access by the authenticated manager.

2. (Currently amended) A storage ~~management~~ system according to claim 1, wherein said temporary software interface object created by said management object is expired when a log-out sent from the authenticated manager at the end of the access is received.

3. (Currently amended) A storage ~~management~~ system according to claim 1, wherein said key transmitted to the authenticated manager represents an address of the temporary software interface object.

4. (Currently amended) A storage ~~management~~ system according to claim 3, wherein:

the temporary software interface object created for the authenticated manager enables use of a subset of management functions available through the storage management system when accessing the storage configuration information file; and

the subset of management functions is defined by a stored information file for the authenticated manager from among a plurality of individualized stored information files for a plurality of managers.

5. (Currently amended) A storage ~~management~~ system according to claim 1, wherein said management object determines not to create a temporary software interface object

[[is]] if a non-use period from most recent log-out of the manager exceeds a predetermined period when the second manager ID and the second password are authenticated.

6. (Currently amended) A storage ~~management~~ system according to claim 1, further comprising an information file for storing a plurality of functions of a remote method invocation protocol and a plurality of flags for defining which manager is permitted to use which function.

7. (Currently amended) A storage ~~management~~ system according to claim 6, wherein said information file stores a flag for temporarily stopping the use of the created interfaces in response to a maintenance request.

8. (Currently amended) A storage ~~management~~ system according to claim 1, further comprising a storage for storing a Java virtual machine having a Java applet program, wherein the Java applet program is transmitted to the manager in response to a request from the manager.

9-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A ~~method of controlling management access in response to a request from a manager connected through a network to a~~ storage management system ~~managing a data file in storage to be accessed by a user, the method comprising:~~

providing user access to data files stored in a storage device of a storage system, based at least in part on settings of the storage system contained in a storage configuration information file accessible via a storage management system;

authenticating a second manager ID and a second password received ~~through the network~~
by the storage management system from ~~[[the]]~~ a manager through a network, in accordance
with a first ID and a first password stored beforehand, to authenticate the manager;

creating for the authenticated manager a temporary software interface object at the
storage management system needed for accessing ~~[[a]]~~ the storage system settings contained in
the storage configuration information file ~~containing settings of the storage management system~~
through the network, when both authentication of the second manager ID and authentication of
the second password succeed, wherein the authenticated manager's access to the settings
contained in the storage configuration information file is permitted by the storage management
system only while the temporary software interface object exists;

transmitting a key needed for communication through the network with the temporary
software interface object to the authenticated manager to enable management access to the
storage configuration information file; and

erasing the temporary software interface object after a lapse of a predetermined
permission time, so as to expire the authenticated manager's ability to access the settings in the
storage configuration information file.

18. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 17, further comprising
expiring the temporary software interface object when a log-out sent from the authenticated
manager at the end of the access is received.

19. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the key
transmitted to the authenticated manager represents an address of the temporary software
interface object.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein:

the temporary software interface object created for the authenticated manager enables use of a subset of management functions available through the storage management system when accessing the storage configuration information file; and

the subset of management functions is defined by a stored information file for the authenticated manager from among a plurality of individualized stored information files for a plurality of managers.